

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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PROCESSING COPY

COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

SUBJECT Exercises for Chemical Warfare Personnel

DATE DISTR.

30 JUL 1967

25X1

NO. PAGES

6

REQUIREMENT  
NO.

REFERENCES

DATE OF  
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The following information concerns exercises held between 3 May and 15 June 1956 at which chemical warfare personnel of all units participated:

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Location of the Camp and Nature of the Terrain

1. The camp was located at a point about 6 km. south of Sari and 5 km. of Gyón.

2. The terrain used for the exercises covers an area of roughly 65 sq. km. The terrain is sandy and marshy. There are slight rises and undulations with differences of altitude up to about 50 or 70 m. The ground is difficult for all motor vehicles. Even the roads are often hard to negotiate because of deep sand at some places and marsh at others. There are wooded areas all over this stretch of country, but no dense forest.

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Personnel taking part

3. The total strength of personnel of all kinds was about 900 to 1,000 men. The largest contingent was a detachment of about 400 men from the Independent Chemical Warfare Battalion, stationed at Nagytarcsa.
4. Officers, senior NCO's, and privates from numerous other units also took part. They came from Miskolc, Győr, Baja, Szeged, Kecskemet, Tapolca, Szombathely, and other garrisons. The branches of service represented also included the air force, tank units, artillery, etc. The State Security Authority (AVH) forces were likewise represented.
5. The personnel taking part in the exercises were under the command of Lt. Col. Gyula Remenyi, Chief of Chemical and Atomic Defense in Hungary's Ministry of Defense.<sup>1</sup>
6. Though Lt. Col. Remenyi was in command and responsible for chemical warfare matters, this was so only in theory. In practice all authority was in the hands of a Soviet major-general (name unknown) who acted as "adviser."<sup>2</sup>

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stationed in Hungary. It was his practice to visit the barracks of the chemical warfare unit at least three times each week. During the exercises here discussed he was present every day and personally took part in all the more important demonstrations.

7. Capt. Bela Farkas, commanding the chemical warfare battalion, is an officer who has been promoted from the ranks and who has served for "30 to 40 years or longer" 25X1

8. The average number of officers from outside formations taking part in or watching the exercises on any one day was about 100 or 150.

9. Numerous Soviet officers and officers from other Satellite countries, including Czechoslovakia, also took part.

10. A signal company or detachment also took part and operated a special direct telephone line from the camp to the Ministry of Defense in Budapest. It also set up telephone communications between the various commands and headquarters.

11. The detachment from the Military Technical Research Institute (Honved Technikai Kutató Intézet)<sup>3</sup> consisted of about 10 chemists and five or six assistants. Their equipment included tents, laboratory motor vans, rubber cisterns, and a relatively large supply of animals for biological experiments. The camp of this detachment was at a distance of about one km. from the camp of the chemical battalion.

- a. The research work was mostly in connection with war gases and nerve gases, but not with radioactive materials.
- b. Special armed guards were detailed to protect the research detachment. No one was allowed to enter the precincts without special permission from Capt. Farkas. Source, however, was able to visit the laboratories and watch what was going on.

#### Purposes of the Exercises

12. The general aim was to acquaint the soldiers with the methods of chemical warfare. In regard to the officers, the aim was to provide for them a sort of preparatory training, as it is planned that in the future there must be a certain number of chemical and atomic warfare defense soldiers in every unit, down to the smallest.

#### Hospital

13. The hospital, a part of the chemical warfare battalion, was stationed at a distance of some 500 m. from the general camp. Its equipment included a white tent marked with red crosses (about 20 m. long, from 7 to 9 m. wide, and about 6 m. high), another tent with a capacity of about 30 beds for general cases, and a tent equipped as an operating theater.
14. The personnel of the hospital consisted of five medical officers and three male nurses. In addition there were three medical officers of high rank attached for the duration of the exercises. Their duties consisted solely in supervising all the precautionary measures and watching the effects of poisonings, etc.

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Medical Services, Health, etc.

15. Medical supplies were most satisfactory in every way. The same can be said of other services. The rations were good and of unusually high caloric value.
16. While at ordinary Hungarian military exercises no attention whatsoever is paid to cleanliness, bathing (shower baths) was compulsory here. One of the medical officers stood by with a list of names to check that all the personnel took shower baths.
17. At a distance of about 200 m. from the cookhouse there were containers with water containing chlorine and other disinfectants. The strictest possible measures were in force to make it impossible for anyone to get to the place where meals were served before having thoroughly washed his hands. Supervision of this was by two medical officers.
18. Drinking water was brought from a great distance in 3,000-liter tank trucks. Disinfectants were added to this water. Water for washing (personal cleanliness) was continually supplied by about eight tank trucks with a total capacity of about 24,000 liters.
19. The following ambulances were available: two two-bed ambulances and one ambulance with 10 stretchers.

Chemicals, Materials and Supplies

20. The chemical stores consisted of about 4 to 6 tons of live, full-strength mustard gas, several tons of decontaminating materials and radioactive isotopes. This was stored at a distance of about 500 m. from the camp and guarded by armed guards.
21. A large number of all kinds of instruments arrived. They were only for use during the exercises and were new.
22. A large quantity of protective rubber clothing and other protective articles arrived. Much of it was new and there were also new types. It should be noted that no efforts were made to deal economically with these supplies, although in general much attention is paid to the economical use of materials and supplies of all kinds. Entirely new sets of protective clothing were issued every day for use in exercises in which live war gases were used.
23. Motor transport consisted of about 50 scout cars (Dodge weapons carriers), about 70 trucks and 100 of all kinds of special motor vehicles.

Exercises

24. There was a minimum of theoretical training. The emphasis was entirely on practical exercises. The schedules were based on precise training programs. There were exact timetables for every day and every hour.
25. The following exercises were carried out:
  - (1) Perhaps the greatest attention was paid to reconnoitering of areas contaminated by atomic bombs or radioactive fall-out and by chemical agents. The training was first carried out without protective clothing and without instruments on non-contaminated ground. The various methods of reconnoitering, of which there

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were some four or five, were practised.

- (2) Behavior in reconnoitering contaminated areas while under artillery or small-arms fire.
- (3) Same as under b, but with the area not under enemy fire.
- (4) Cooperation with other units.
- (5) Laying of smoke screens in front of the first line.
- (6) Smoke screens of circular pattern around the object to be concealed.
- (7) Chemical contamination and minefield laying.
- (8) Laying of anti-tank mines.
- (9) Contamination of terrain with poison agents.
- (10) Contamination of terrain with dummy agents. In general the exercises with live agents are begun when everyone has become familiar with the use of the protective clothing and the respirator and has acquired practice in putting them on and taking them off.
- (11) Penetration of a contaminated area under the assumption that there is no threat of enemy fire.
- (12) Crossing a contaminated area under enemy fire; for instance, with the use of the groundsheet.
- (13) How to behave and what action to take if chemical warfare agents or radioactive materials are sprayed from aircraft.
- (14) Method of reconnaissance after the explosion of an atomic bomb.
- (15) Action to be taken on the explosion of an atomic bomb.
- (16) The creation of passages through contaminated areas.
- (17) The creation of passages through areas contaminated by radioactive materials.
- (18) Digging-in motor vehicles for protection against atomic attack.
- (19) Setting up a clothing decontamination station.
- (20) Setting up a personnel decontamination station with baths.
- (21) Setting up a decontamination station for weapons.
- (22) Decontamination of objects of large size.
- (23) Assessment of meteorological conditions.
- (24) Setting up of special decontamination stations.

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- (25) Various decontamination methods in which less elaborate means are used (for instance, with hand spray).
- (26) Exercises in the use of chemical reconnaissance instruments by carrying out measurements and arriving at findings.
- (27) Taking measurements of various radioactive materials with the use of the appropriate instruments.
- (28) Contamination of roads and bridges with chemical agents.
- (29) Decontamination of roads and bridges.
- (30) Building of light chemical defense shelters.
- (31) Building trenches for protection against atomic attack.
- (32) Knowledge of various chemical-warfare agents.
- (33) Reconnaissance carried out with the use of maps.
- (34) Night exercises at locations where the above exercises had previously been carried out.
- (35) Use of the anti-gas cape.
- (36) Reconnaissance by motor vehicle.

Evaluation

After the termination of the exercises the officers worked for weeks on the evaluation of them.

Autumn exercises

In September 1956 the so-called "four-division maneuvers" were held at Bugac<sup>4</sup> Puszta in the area between the Danube and the Tisza, at Baja and west of the Danube, in the County of Tolna. At these exercises 150 NCO's and privates who had done well at the chemical-warfare exercises in May and June were allotted to the divisions.

1.  Comment:  Lt. Col. 25X1  
Remenyi still held this position at the end of March 1957.

2.  25X1

3.  Comment: The headquarters of the Military Technical Research Institute (Honved Technikai Kutató Intézet) is on Haros Island. Whether this is in fact the headquarters for all branches and sections is not known, but it is certain that this is the center for chemical-warfare research. A number of modern buildings were seen there but not from the inside.  the Institute 25X1

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carried large stores of war gases and nerve gases and that the laboratories were well equipped. (Haros Island is in fact only a peninsula, not an island. It is situated on the west bank of the Danube in the Budafok district of Budapest.

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4. Comment: Possibly Bogacs is meant.

sketch map, scale 1:100,000, with legend, showing the area where the exercises were held.

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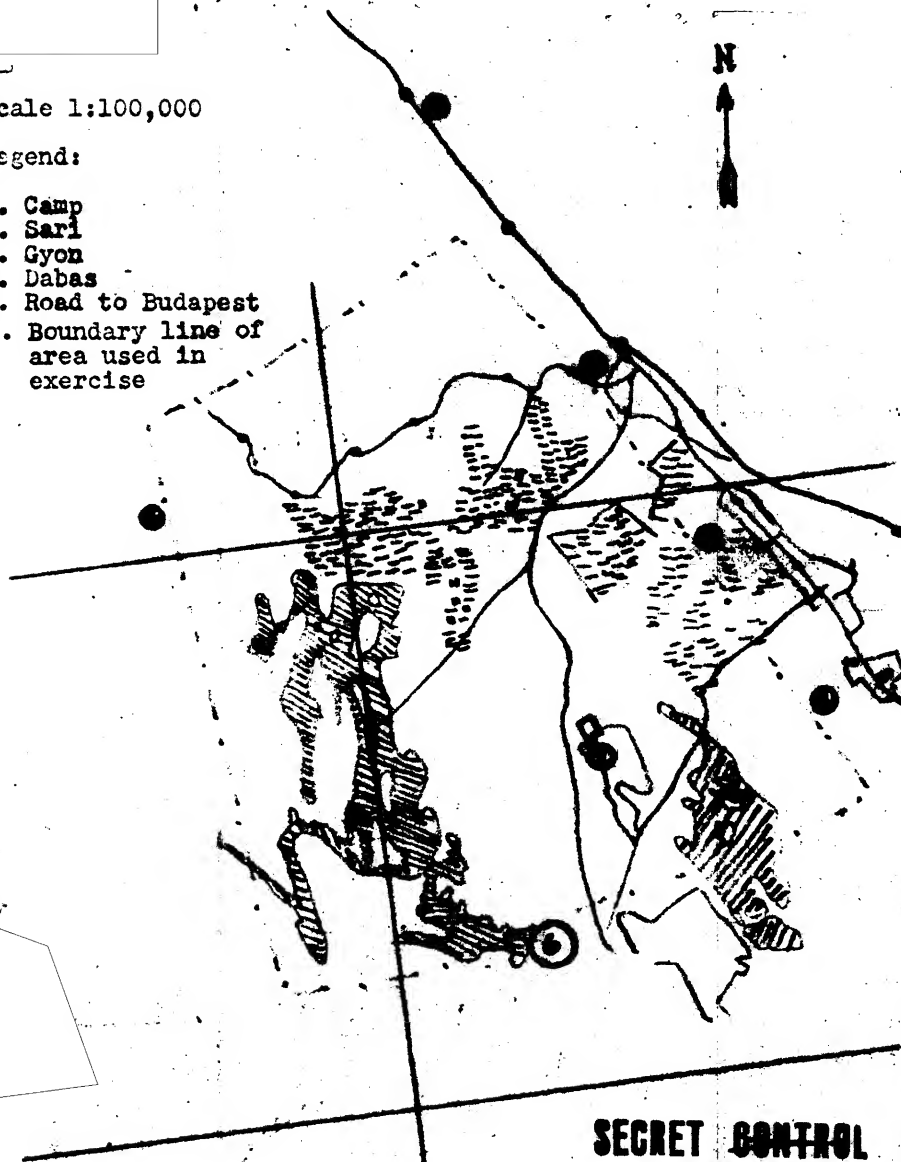
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Scale 1:100,000

Legend:

1. Camp
2. Sari
3. Gyon
4. Dabas
5. Road to Budapest
6. Boundary line of area used in exercise



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